



September 2, 2022



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON: Time to Catch Our Breath

NEMA was locked in on additional conversations around the Resilient America Act again this week with Congressional staff looking for support on provisions in the package that would allow interest rates on FEMA PA loans to be eligible for reimbursement – something that is already allowable, but not consistently applied across regions.

In funding news, rumors are circulating around that Congress is looking to return from recess on September 13 with the intention of completing a continuing resolution (CR) that week. They will then break again, giving members the last two weeks to focus on campaigns. Current discussions are hinting at a CR through December 16, which is the target date for adjournment for the House.

Additionally, with the start of September we welcome National Preparedness Month – a month to remind (if any of us needed additional reminding!) of the importance of building resilience and preparedness for the increasing number of disasters.

Hearings the Week of September 5, 2022

[Power in the Pacific: Unlocking Offshore Wind Energy for the American West](#)

House Committee on Natural Resources
Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 10:00am PT

More News from the Nation's Capital...

FEMA Announces STORM Act Notice of Intent

This week, FEMA announced a notice of intent for a new program to fund resilience projects that will make communities safer from natural hazards. The Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund program will make \$50 million available in capitalization grants to states to fund low-interest loans to local governments – funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Funds can be used for hazard mitigation projects that reduce disaster risks for homeowners, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and communities. Other uses of loans include satisfying a local government's non-federal cost-share match for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, updating building codes adoption and enforcement, and making zoning and land use changes.

In a stakeholder listening session last week, FEMA stated that they are expecting the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for this program to be available by the end of the year. Comments from stakeholders included discussion around state enforcement of NEPA requirements, project timeline length, and how to ensure the inclusion of local government project proposals. More information on this can be found in the [FEMA press release](#).

FEMA Open Comment Period for HMA Policy and Program Guidance

This week, FEMA published a notice in the Federal Register seeking public comment on updates to its Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide. As part of FEMA's people first commitment in its new strategic plan, the updated guide will help catalyze community partnerships and promote more equitable investments to reduce risk. It will also help to better deliver mitigation grant programs to communities across the nation dealing with the worsening effects of climate change.

The update consolidates policy guidance released since the 2015 edition including addendums. It provides new and expanded content on changes to hazard mitigation assistance programs mandated by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act. The additional programs covered by the guidance include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

The public comment period will run through September 23, 2022 and can be made [here](#).

DHS Release 2023 'Train-the-Trainer' Calendar

The DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Office's Master Trainer Program (MTP) certifies Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (F/SLTT) partners in the instruction of Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) techniques and best practices. This train-the-trainer program prepares Certified Master Trainers to empower their local communities and organizations to mitigate threats and prevent acts of targeted violence.

To be accepted to the MTP, you must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be a current employee of a public sector agency
- Have a minimum of two years-experience in a field related to public safety
- Have your participation in the course endorsed by supervisor
- Request registration for one of the above courses

For more information about the MTP and how to bring BTAM to your community, check out the [DHS website](#).

FEMA Publishes Support Materials for Emergency Management Partners

New support materials are available to governments to help them apply for a FEMA grant program providing funds to make them more resilient. The materials aid state, local, tribal and territorial emergency management to submitting more successful Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications. Materials also help them reduce time it takes to receive awards. FEMA anticipates the guides will help HMGP funding reach more communities.

The support materials include information for the most requested HMGP project types for various mitigation activities such as acquisition, elevation, flood risk reduction, hurricane wind retrofitting and soil stabilization. FEMA plans to develop more application support materials for additional project types. These support materials can be found on the [HMGP webpage](#).

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Route Fifty: [Collaboration, Training Key to Local Government Cyber Defense](#)

The Hill: [High-Tech Wooden Cities Could Fight Fire, Climate Change, Study Says](#)

Bloomberg: [Americans Could Have to Pay for Covid Shots Starting Next Year](#)

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